

CLAIMS

1. A mollusc repellent composition including an effective amount of a substantially insoluble metal oxalate and a suitable carrier therefor.
2. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 1, wherein the metal of the metal oxalate is selected from a transition metal or a transition metal in combination with a non-transition metal.
3. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the metal is selected from the group of iron(II) or iron(III), aluminium, zinc or copper.
4. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 3, wherein the metal is copper.
5. A mollusc repellent composition according to any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the non-transition metal is potassium.
6. A mollusc repellent composition according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the metal oxalate is selected from ferric potassium oxalate or copper oxalate.
7. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 6, wherein the metal oxalate is copper oxalate.
8. A mollusc repellent composition according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the amount of metal oxalate is between about 2% to 100% by weight of the total composition.
9. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 8, wherein the amount of metal oxalate is between about 2% and 10% by weight of the total composition.
10. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 9, wherein the amount is about 5% by weight of the total composition.

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11. A mollusc repellent composition according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the carrier is water.

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12. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 11, wherein the metal oxalate is present as an aqueous suspension.

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13. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 11 or claim 12, wherein the carrier comprises between about 0% and 98% by weight of the total composition.

14. A mollusc repellent composition according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein carrier includes a binder to facilitate the adhesion of the metal oxalate onto the surface of an article to be treated.

10 15. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 14, wherein the article is selected from an animate or an inanimate article.

16. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 15, wherein the binder is selected from gum arabic or gum acacia where the repellent is to be applied to an animate article.

15 17. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 15, wherein the binder is selected from a waterproof binder such as paraffin wax, white oil, casein or polyvinylacetate where the repellent is applied to inanimate articles.

20 18. A mollusc repellent composition according to any one of claims 14 to 17, wherein the binder comprises between 0.1% and 100% by weight of the carrier.

25 19. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 18, wherein the binder comprises between 0.5 and 3% by weight of the carrier.

20 20. A mollusc repellent composition according to any one of the preceding claims further including a fungicide.

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21. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 20, wherein the fungicide comprises about 0.05% to 1.0% by weight of the total composition.

22. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 20 or claim 21, wherein the fungicide is selected from copper oxychloride or thiram.

23. A mollusc repellent composition according to any one of claims 20 to 22, wherein the fungicide is applied as a coating in combination with a small amount of a non-phytotoxic dye.

10 24. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 23, wherein the non-phytotoxic dye comprises less than about 1% by weight of the total composition.

15 25. A mollusc repellent composition according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the composition further comprises a diluent to enable even coverage of the article to which the repellent is to be applied.

26. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 25, wherein the diluent is selected from a silicate, gypsum or limestone.

20 27. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 25 or claim 26, wherein the diluent comprises between about 0% to 95% by weight of the total composition.

28. A mollusc repellent composition according to any one of claims 1 to 14 and claim 16, wherein the composition further includes a growth hormone.

25 29. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 28, wherein the growth hormone is a seaweed extract.

30. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 28 or claim 29, wherein the growth hormone comprises between about 0.05% and 1% by weight of the total composition.

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31. A mollusc repellent composition according to any one of claims 1 to 30, wherein the composition comprises a metal oxalate in combination with at least one other mollusc repellent.

32. A method for treating an article with the mollusc repellent composition according to any one of claims 1 to 31, including applying the repellent composition to the surface of the article to be treated.

33. A method according to claim 32, wherein the article to be treated is selected from an animate or an inanimate article.

34. A method according to claim 33, wherein the animate article is a seed having the potential to produce at least one root, and the growth hormone is readily available to the at least one root as it emerges from the seed.

35. A method according to claim 34, wherein the seed selected from the group of wheat, barley or clover seeds, phalaris, rye or cocksfoot grass seeds, canola seeds, fruit or vegetable seeds.

36. A method according to claim 33, wherein the inanimate article is selected from weed mats, inlet and outlet pipes for cooling systems, hulls of ships, driveways of homes or grow-bags.

37. A method according to any one of claims 32 to 36, wherein the form of the repellent is selected from a solid, a suspension or coating composition.

38. A method according to claim 37, wherein the solid form of the repellent is selected from tablets, granules or a powder.

39. A method according to claim 37, wherein the suspension is in the form of a spray.

40. A mollusc repellent composition, according to any one of claims 1 to 31, in the form of coating composition.

41. A mollusc repellent composition, according to any one of claims 1 to 10, in the form of a paint.

42. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 41, wherein the carrier is selected from an aqueous surfactant solution, an aqueous polyvinylacetate solution or an oil-based paint.

43. A mollusc repellent composition suitable for sustainable 5 agricultural purposes including:

(i) an effective amount of an aqueous solution of oxalic acid or soluble metal oxalate; and

(ii) an effective amount of an aqueous solution of a soluble metal salt,

10 whereby sequential application of the two solutions, in either order, results in the in-situ preparation of a substantially insoluble metal oxalate as an aqueous suspension.

44. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 42, 15 wherein the metal oxalate is selected from ferrous oxalate, ferric ammonium/potassium oxalate or copper oxalate.

45. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 43, wherein the oxalic acid and the metal salt are present in equimolar amounts.

20 46. A mollusc repellent composition according to claim 44, wherein the concentration of the metal salt solution is about 5% by weight of the total composition.

25 47. An article treated with the repellent composition according to any one of claims 1 to 31 according to the method of any one of claims 32 to 39.

48. An article according to claim 46, wherein the treated article is selected from a seed, a weed mat, a citrus tree, an inlet or outlet pipe, a ship's hull, a grow bag or a vegetable seedling.

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49. Use of the mollusc repellent composition according to any one of claims 1 to 31 substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the Examples.

50. A mollusc repellent composition according to any one of
5 claims 1 to 31 substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to
any one of the Examples.

51. A method of for treating an article with the mollusc repellent composition according to any one of claims 1 to 31, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the Examples.

10 52. A coating composition according to claim 40, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the Examples.

53. A paint according to claim 41 or claim 42, substantially as hereinbefore described.

54. A mollusc repellent composition suitable for sustainable
15 agriculture purposes according to any one of claims 42 to 45, substantially
as hereinbefore described.